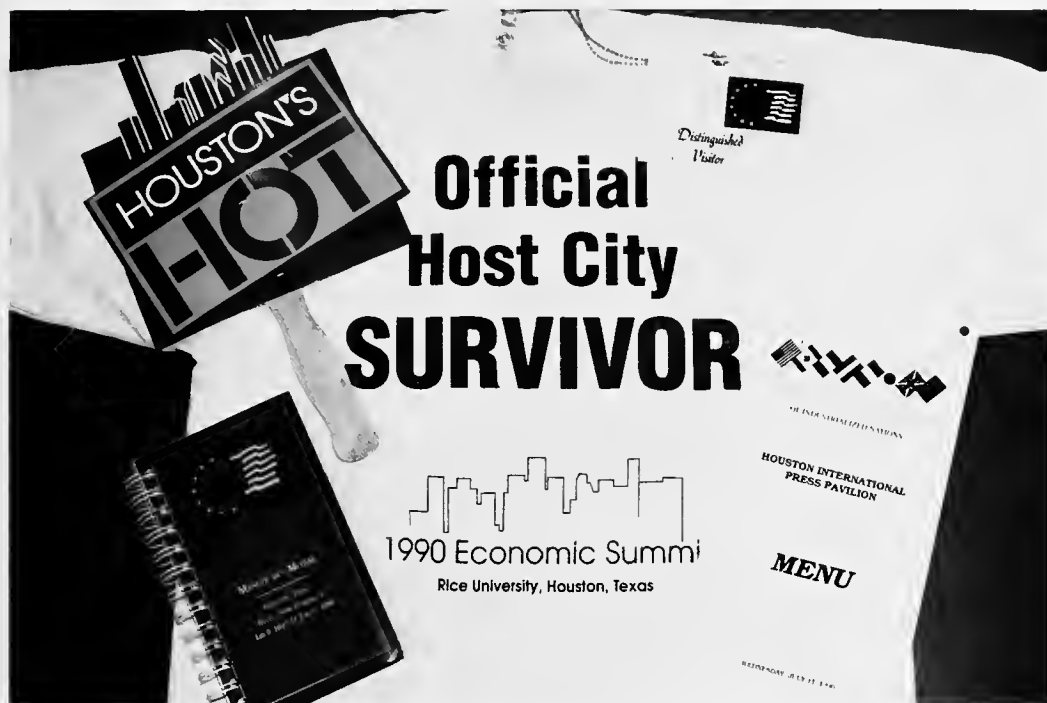


The Flyleaf

Friends of Fondren Library Vol. 41, No. 1

Fall 1990





RICE UNIVERSITY FONDREN LIBRARY

Founded under the charter of the university dated May 18, 1891, the library was established in 1913. Its present facility was dedicated November 4, 1949, and rededicated in 1969 after a substantial addition, both made possible by gifts of Ella F. Fondren, her children, and the Fondren Foundation and Trust as a tribute to Walter William Fondren. The library recorded its half-millionth volume in 1965; its one millionth volume was celebrated April 22, 1979.

THE FRIENDS OF FONDREN LIBRARY

The Friends of Fondren Library was founded in 1950 as an association of library supporters interested in increasing and making better known the resources of Fondren Library at Rice University. The Friends, through members' contributions and sponsorship of a memorial and honor gift program, secure gifts and bequests and provide funds for the purchase of rare books, manuscripts, and other materials that could not otherwise be acquired by the library.

THE FLYLEAF

Founded October 1950 and published quarterly by the Friends of Fondren Library, Rice University, P.O. Box 1892, Houston, Texas 77251, as a record of Fondren Library's and Friends' activities, and of the generosity of the library's supporters.

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A LETTER TO THE FRIENDS

Dear Friends,

It was recently announced that Dr. Beth J. Shapiro has been appointed University Librarian of Fondren Library. Dr. Shapiro, who holds a master's degree in library science and a doctorate in sociology, comes to Rice from Michigan State University Libraries, where she served as deputy director. She will assume her new duties on or around January 1, 1991. We are looking forward to working closely with Dr. Shapiro to make Fondren Library and its collection better known. Dr. Shapiro replaces Sam Carrington, who, after a year's sabbatical, will return to the Rice French department faculty.

Once again, we are sponsoring a variety of events throughout the coming academic year, all of which are open to the general public. We invite all of you to attend.

Stephen Fox presented our first lecture, "The Architecture of Rice University and Its Influence," on **Tuesday, September 11**. Mr. Fox, a graduate of Rice University's School of Architecture and a fellow of the Anchorage Foundation of Texas, is a noted architectural historian. He has published many books, the most recent being *Houston Architectural Guide*.

On **Wednesday, October 10**, at 7:30 p.m., **Dr. Dennis Huston** will present a lecture entitled "Reading Drama with Help from Film." Dr. Huston, who teaches English at Rice and was named national Professor of the Year in 1989, is planning an unusual and exciting program that will include the use of video.

Our annual **Homecoming Brunch** will be held on **Saturday, November 10**, at 9:00 a.m. As in the past, we and the Rice Engineering Alumni will honor our respective hardworking volunteers. The reception and informal ceremony will be held in the Alice Pratt Brown Library — Art, Architecture, and Music, on the third floor of Fondren Library.

The **Reception Honoring Rice Authors** will be held **Wednesday, January 16, 1991**, at 7:30 p.m. Among the honorees are Stephen Fox, B.C. Robison, Elizabeth Moon, Jane Chance, Loy Anderson, Cary Jensen, Suzanne Lummis, Charles Webb, and James Morehead, Jr. We would like to remind you that this reception is intended to recognize members of the Friends, as well as Rice faculty and alumni, who had books published

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Nancy Rupp
Tim Freeland, Computer Consultant

Cover: A sampling of materials collected for the Woodson Research Center's summit archive. Photo by Jet Marie Prendeville.

The Art of Building an Archive

A documentalist picks her way through
mountains of material on the summit.

by Nancy L. Boothe

The mention of an archive documenting the 1990 Economic Summit can evoke a variety of images: bundles of official documents tied with red ribbon, cryptic notes in foreign languages on scraps of paper, mimeographed news releases photocopied to the point of illegibility, office files of summit organizers, glossy propaganda packets of special interest groups, the overpriced kitsch from Houston shop windows, or souvenir realia being feverishly traded in the George R. Brown Convention Center. All of these materials, and much more, can be considered appropriate to an archival collection focusing on Houston's — and Rice University's — biggest event of the year.

Soon after the announcement that Houston would host the 1990 Economic Summit July 9–11, and that significant meetings would be held on the Rice campus, then-University Librarian Sam Carrington, Associate University Librarian Jennifer Cargill, and I met for a brainstorming session about the possibility of putting together such an archive, to be housed in Fondren's Woodson Research Center. Subsequent research indicated that Rice would be the first institution to document an economic summit comprehensively, and President George Rupp and Vice President Ed Hayes gave their blessing to the project.

My preliminary investigation suggested numerous (and sometimes ambitious) avenues of

approach. The logical first step was to identify the types of material associated with an economic summit, followed by some judicious consideration as to which might be reasonable and appropriate for Rice to attempt to collect.

I began researching the official documentation emanating from previous economic summits (also variously called seven-power summits, summits of industrialized countries, or just G-7). This material turned out to be elusive and sparse. Because all official statements come from a multinational body, with variations issued by member countries in their own languages, there is no one source that publishes or records the statements. A recent book by Canadian librarian Peter I. Hajnal, entitled *The Seven-Power Summit: Documents from the Summits of Industrialized Countries 1975-1989* (Kraus International Publications, 1989), turned out to be marvelously informative on this subject. The documentary output of a summit, says Hajnal, is deliberately lean, reflecting the confidentiality of the issues discussed. "This penchant for privacy means . . . that the documents that are released publicly by the summiteers are of great importance. Because these documents are so scarce and short, each word, phrase, and sentence commands a significance far beyond its apparent simplicity." The key document is the final communiqué, or economic declaration, read by the summit host at the end of deliberations and distributed in the languages of the participating countries. This declaration, which actually begins taking shape some nine months before the meeting, is drafted

Nancy Boothe is director of the Woodson Research Center in Fondren Library.

and refined by the “sherpas,” or personal representatives of the G-7 leaders.

The political declaration, the second most important summit document, is issued separately from the final communiqué. It is prepared jointly by the sherpas and the political directors (senior foreign ministers) of the participating countries.

A third class of document is the chairman’s statement, issued verbally or in written form by the host leader as an “additional indication of what was discussed or agreed.” This may be a unilateral or a collective document.

The last documentary category consists of the press releases or briefings issued by the host head of government. Although, as Hajnal says, the “officials and press spokespersons of each delegation struggle to get out the version of what went on that is most favorable to them, . . . the words of the host leader have a special status.”

The office records of all the bodies and organizations involved in the planning and arranging of this massive event, as well as the files of individuals involved in the substantive discussions of the conference, would certainly be significant. What of this could we reasonably expect to collect? At the national level, on the U.S. side alone, four agencies were involved — the White House, State Department, Treasury Department, and U.S. Information Agency. At the local level, all the Houston entities involved in the summit, such as

the Greater Houston Partnership, the Houston Host Committee, South Main Center Association, and the Rice Summit Office, created masses of files, all of which would be relevant to the documentary record of the 1990 summit. Rice has expressed interest in having some of these files — or copies of them — archived here, but at this writing, we can be sure only of receiving the Rice-generated material.

The glamour of official pronouncements and the factual density of office records shouldn’t blind the archivist to the significance of the often mundane, sometimes ephemeral material showered on university staff and faculty, Rice neighborhood residents, and Houstonians in general. This thought came to me when I spotted notices from Rice Campus Police Chief Mary Voswinkel posted on staff lockers in the library, with instructions to remove locks by a particular date. From this point forward, I became a dedicated collector of institutional minutiae — with lots of help from the Woodson staff. We gathered memoranda about staff reassignment; volunteer forms; yellow-covered directives on getting on and off campus, parking, traffic, credentialing, and moving out of offices; and phone directories of relocated offices.

Beyond the hedges, too, I moved easily into my role as archival bag lady. My own mailbox yielded treasures such as a flyer from a travel



Realia collected by members of the Woodson Research Center staff for the summit archive.

agent offering a "Summit Getaway Vacation," civic club newsletters with updates on the "Great Begonia Drop-off," and ads from local retailers featuring merchandise like a summit blend of coffee with matching mugs. I sent in a coupon for a special summit edition of an AAA Houston map and sought out a bottle of summit wine, a French red with a classy black label featuring the Houston skyline.

As the pre-summit fever mounted, I recalled my theory that the archive of any late-twentieth-century historic event would be incomplete without T-shirts. So I began collecting T-shirts for the archive as well as for my family. Some were free, some cost money, and one even cost me nearly three hours of backbreaking labor raking leaves near Rice entrance #2 on South Main. But now both collections include Rice Student Association shirts, Rice volunteer shirts, Houston Host Committee shirts, the Rice underground shirt with a motto not appropriate for a family publication, and a bright-red *Thresher* summit student journalist shirt, which the *Thresher* editor enthusiastically peeled off and handed me. It was still drenched in his sweat, for he had ridden with me from the convention center to campus on a Rice shuttle bus in which only the heat was operational, not the air-conditioning (but that's another story).

On the day the parking lot passes were distributed to those credentialed to come on campus during the event the following week, I think that many of us felt for the first time that we were in the grip of an inevitable countdown. The summit really was going to happen, and there was nothing we could do about it but ride the crest of this enormous wave. These plastic passes, pastel and iridescent with huge numbers indicating the entrance the pass-bearer was allowed to enter, are nice additions to the archive. Other campus realia in the archive are outer and inner perimeter passes, worn on neck chains like dog tags, which were distributed at specified entry points to select individuals who in exchange temporarily forfeited their Rice IDs. President Rupp's credentials are among those in the collection.

A description of items in an archive doesn't always tell the whole story. Sometimes the circumstances of collecting may be of more compelling interest than the material collected; recollections of the archivist's fieldwork adventures may bring an additional luster to the archival objects themselves. A number of the items I acquired at the George R. Brown Convention

Center have vivid memories attached to them.

Because I had helped edit an informational computer presentation about Rice, I was credentialed to work at the university's kiosk on the second floor of the convention center. Besides several Apple computers where the news media could view this Rice HyperCard stack as well as others on Houston and Texas, volunteer faculty and community native speakers of summit country languages, recruited by Rice alumnus Tom Smith, welcomed reporters and explained the university in their own tongues. These volunteers often attended foreign press briefings, where they soon became adept at picking up news releases and other handouts for the archive. The most vivid image I have of these volunteer ambassadors for Rice is that of Sumiyo Ender, formerly of the Shepherd School of Music, in jeans and feathered cowboy hat, charming Japanese newsmen with her brilliant smile as she explained that the university was named for its founder, William Marsh Rice, and not for the dietary staple of their country.

The Rice booth provided a wealth of souvenirs, such as navy-blue nylon tote bags, Rice lapel pins, tiny gold-colored metal owls, and reporters' notebooks with the Rice logo, all of which became hot trade items by Tuesday.

Other convention center booths, sponsored by the City of Houston, the Houston Host Committee, NASA, the Texas Medical Center, and other universities, also had collectible handouts, such as colorful packets on the Museum of Fine Arts and Bayou Bend, the official Houston media information packet, space station photographs signed by an attending astronaut, and handsome black Brown & Root T-shirts with the summit country flags in full color.

I acquired early-release menus of the famed food pavilion two days before its official opening by dint of a small deception. It didn't start out as a deception, but somehow on Saturday, July 7 (the first day we manned the booth), I found myself in a fire exit stairwell from which I was able to emerge only when a door was opened into the stairwell by members of a group touring the building. Because most of them looked fairly young, I thought they might be students on a behind-the-scenes tour, but they turned out to be temporary food service hires learning the ropes. There seemed to be no reason for blowing my cover at this stage, so I began taking notes (in my Rice reporter's notebook) and tried to look younger. I learned all about the seven buffet lines

and the kinds of food they would offer, where the bars and lounge areas were and the bounty of beverages available, and the location of the Blue Bell ice cream kiosks. Finally, as the group was herded onto freight elevators for a descent into the food-preparation areas below, I quietly slid out of the picture. But I never look at those menus without recalling my little adventure.

Probably the most important convention center acquisitions, from the documentary point of view, were materials from the print media area on the third floor. Media representatives from around the world sat in an immense room, at long tables ranged in rows around a giant television console with screens facing in all directions. Four distribution points held handout materials: media pool reports, official U.S. summit press releases, White House Press Secretary briefings, notices, schedules, and speeches; media information (including Houston restaurant lists in several languages); interest group materials such as the bright-green Broccoli Summit Statement and releases from environmental groups; and notices of briefings of the various national delegations. At these distribution points also appeared those few official documents of the Economic Summit: the Chairman's Statement, the Political Declaration, and the Houston Economic Declaration, or Final Communiqué.

On most of my visits, the handout tables were relatively deserted. But shortly before noon on Wednesday, the last day of the summit, the level of nervous energy in the print media room rose noticeably — in expectation, it turned out, of the release of this last and most important document. I spotted a group of Japanese newsmen rushing down an adjacent corridor into the room. Without understanding why, and forgetting that archivists are usually content to collect after the fact, I joined in the stampede and grabbed for a

copy of the multipage Japanese document. Only after being sternly rejected by the distributor did I realize that the document was a prematurely released Japanese translation of the Economic Declaration, the first in any language to reach the press.

The next version to appear (and I have this by hearsay only) was a bootleg and inaccurate Canadian translation into English. By this time, U.S. officials, including U.S. Information Agency staffers, were fairly upset that the official version in the language of the host country had not yet appeared. They conferred on walkie-talkies while reporters (and an archivist) waited impatiently at the USIA desk. Finally, at the stroke of noon, there appeared piles of handsome blue folders decorated with the rippling American flag logo of the 1990 summit. Inside were copies of the Final Communiqué in English and French, the two official summit languages. It was worth waiting for.

This presentation has highlighted only some of the material that is now a part of Rice's summit archive. It has not discussed the mass of wire service telefaxes concerning the summit that were faithfully collected at the convention center wire service desk by Rice student Ross Goldberg; the giant plastic sheet autographed by the Rice Physical Plant crew responsible for assembling and disassembling the VIP platforms in the main quadrangle; the boxes of newspaper clippings painstakingly assembled by Rice alumna volunteer Jean McCaine and the samples of around-the-world media coverage sent by far-flung Rice alumni; or the beautiful Tiffany glass vase presented to George Rupp. Happily, all of you readers can see much of this material firsthand at a summit exhibit mounted by curator Stella Dobbins that is scheduled to run in Anderson Hall's Farish Gallery through November 11, 1990. ≡

Topping Off the Summit

July 18

The economic summit has come and gone but the fairy dust has yet to settle at Rice University. Traces of sawdust linger in the air as well, as, for example, the tables used by the foreign and finance ministers in Fondren Library are disassembled and put up for sale. No one and nothing, least of all the library building itself, was spared the tumult surrounding preparations for the 1990 Economic Summit of Industrialized Nations, held on campus July 9–11. At the risk of eliciting groans from readers who, despite several months' respite, cannot bear to hear another word on the subject, here follows a summary of activities that transformed Fondren Library into a suitable site for summiteers.

The Wright Reference Room, renamed the Wright Room for the occasion (apparently any evidence that this was a library in real life was to be concealed), served as the meeting place for finance ministers. The circular mahogany reference desk that normally serves as the room's centerpiece was dismantled and removed to make way for an American-hardwood table eighteen feet in diameter around which ministers deliberated during the three-day period. The dozen Libris terminals that encircle the room were relocated to the adjoining bibliography

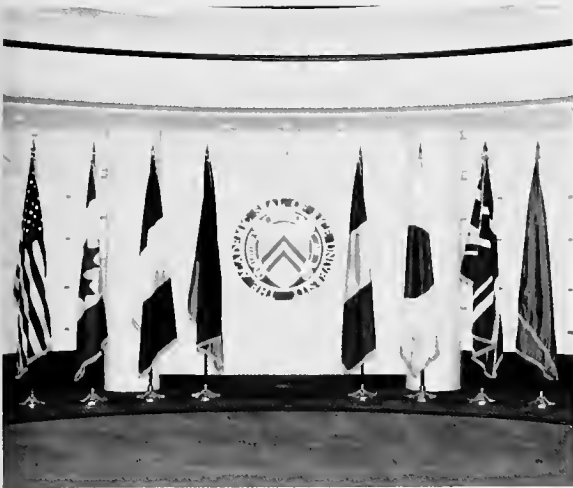
room, and the built-in counters that support them were taken down. The entrance to the reference room was made smaller and mahogany doors were added; the walls were covered with plasterboard and painted (the printers' marks were allowed to remain); light racks were installed in the upper corners; and three panels were mounted at the back of the room to keep an array of communications equipment from sight.

Meanwhile, over at circulation and in the Elder Periodical Room (abbreviated to Elder Room), further revamping was taking place. Except for a small segment that served as a counter, the entire circulation desk was encased in compression-fitted partitions made to appear permanent by the addition, for example, of mahogany baseboards that met the same quality standards as those of the library renovation. The open stairwell leading to the periodicals balcony was likewise walled in, and the electronic security system governing the entrance and exit gates at circulation was removed. In the center of the periodical room, in place of the usual study tables, another specially built meeting table was set up, this one for the foreign ministers. The periodicals on the first two rows of shelves on either side of the



Renee Remillard

The Wright Reference Room was transformed into a conference room for finance ministers.



Renee Remillard

The library rotunda with the flags of participating delegations.

table were replaced with government publications, deemed a more appropriate backdrop for the occasion (and, it would seem, more suitable browsing material for the ministers). To eliminate distractions and for reasons of security, shades were added to the lower half of the twelve floor-to-ceiling windows.

The balcony above the periodical room was partitioned off, but narrow openings overlooking the meeting table remained. Translation booths were lined up all in a row in front of the openings, allowing the interpreters to observe the discussions taking place below. (Interpreters for the finance ministers were not so lucky. Relegated to booths in the bibliography room, they watched the proceedings taking place in the Wright Room on video monitors.)

Of the library's first-floor service points, only the Woodson Research Center was not pressed into use. The circulation and reference staffs set up shop (in condensed form) in the bibliography room, relocations that necessitated the installation of power and the rerouting of computer and phone lines into that area.

Nor was the Computer and Information Technology Institute, which occupies the northeast quadrant of the library's first floor, left untouched. Each of the eight delegations was given offices here, and each office was outfitted with new furnishings and books — in some cases, lots of books — the latter chosen to match the native language of the room's inhabitants. (The German delegation, for example, was entertained with seventy volumes — more or less — of the *Jahrbuch des deutschen archäologischen Instituts*; the Brits got sixty volumes of *Documents on Brit-*

ish Foreign Policy 1919–1939; the French, in addition to at least one hundred volumes of Voltaire's correspondence, were treated to the works of Colette and Zola; and the Americans had *U.S. Vital Statistics* and bound volumes of *Texas Monthly* sitting on their shelves.)

Limited use was also made of the third floor. The Kyle Morrow Room was equipped with tables, computer terminals, and a copy machine for use by interpreters; the head interpreter was installed in the office of the director of access services; and a luncheon for finance ministers was hosted in Lovett Lounge.

Finally, paintings by Texas artists, elegant vases, a crystal globe, ficus trees, bouquets of dried and living flowers, and other decorative accessories were apportioned throughout the building. An Oriental rug covered the floor of the foyer, where the electronic security system had also been dismantled (to be replaced by a far tighter security system made up of Secret Service agents). Eight evenly spaced flagpoles bearing flags of the participating delegations encircled the rotunda, bestowing a touch of grandeur and stateliness on the library entrance.

On Sunday, July 8, the FBI conducted a five-hour security sweep of Fondren Library during which teams of Secret Service agents and trained dogs searched the building. (The day before, two agents had donned hard hats to inspect the steam tunnels connected to the library.) Every carrel, cupboard, file cabinet and desk drawer was opened and checked; dogs were

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Renee Remillard

The Elder Periodical Room was the site of deliberations by foreign ministers.

The Best Laid Plans

While all other library services were shut down during the economic summit, R.i.C.E., Fondren's fee-based information service, was determined to maintain the semblance of business as usual — at least on a reduced scale. Of course, this couldn't be accomplished from its regular location in the basement of the library, so R.i.C.E. set up provisional headquarters at the top of the old part of the football stadium. The operation had only a fraction of the space it normally does, but then the staff was pared down in number as well. Una Gourlay, director of R.i.C.E., realized from the outset that it would be impossible to offer full service during the relocation, but she hoped to provide emergency service, and then some.

The necessary arrangements were made in due course: more than five hundred clients were notified well in advance of the impending disruption; the space in the stadium was laid out; permission was obtained from the appropriate agencies and departments for couriers to get on and off campus — a critical component of the R.i.C.E. operation; and when the time came to move, Physical Plant carried over the boxes, the fax machine, the microwave and cooler. "We really had it rather nicely planned," says Gourlay, with the hint of a sigh. "We thought we could do quite a lot under the circumstances."

But things went awry from the start. It took Gourlay an hour and a half Monday morning, July 9, to get from Gate 7, where she parked her car, to the stadium, a trip that normally would take a matter of minutes on foot. Then there were the mechanical difficulties in the new location. According to Julie Hemstreet, one of the stadium stalwarts, "you couldn't hear people on the phone" when the AC was running, a situation exacerbated by the bad phone connections. Not that there were many phone calls anyhow. "I think most people read the letter and decided to hold off with their requests until Thursday," says Hemstreet.

If telecommunications weren't up to par, what about the mail? Members of the R.i.C.E. staff had deliberately been reassigned to the mailroom with the expectation that they could locate packages intended for R.i.C.E. and forward them promptly to the stadium. But the packages first had to be approved by the FBI dogs. "All our

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Eight Flags Over the B.I.C.

If Fondren Library experienced a face-lift and tummy tuck in preparation for the summit, the Business Information Center (B.I.C.) in Herring Hall underwent reconstructive surgery. Here is where all the leaders and their ministers met around that gigantic, telegenic oval table (since shipped to the U.S. State Department amid rumors that its next appearance will be in the Bush Library) under the colorful flags of the participating delegations (scheduled to become part of the B.I.C.'s regular decor when it resumes operation).

Two weeks after the summit, Peggy Shaw, the B.I.C. librarian, talked about the changes wrought in her beloved library. Surveying the construction site before us, she still has the shell-shocked air of someone whose life has been turned topsy-turvy by forces beyond her control. From late May through early July, as the Jones Graduate School library was gradually stripped of its identity for the high-powered event and as she grew more and more helpless in the face of the extensive changes taking place around her, Shaw found herself frequently asking the construction crew, "'You're not going to ruin the carpet, are you?'" Recalls Shaw, "Every nail they put in here just made me wince."

We're standing at one end of what was, for three days, the room in which plenary sessions were held. The table, the flags, the map are now gone. A green plastic sheet covers the floor, littered with chunks of drywall, an occasional hard hat, and metal strips torn from the floor and ceiling (used to hold the drywall in place). Plaster dust is everywhere. In the center of the room stands a hydraulic lift that enabled workers to remove the flags from the second floor, and near us is some scaffolding. The B.I.C. will reopen at the start of the new academic year, after having been closed for the entire summer.

Shaw relates her summit story in a tone that signifies lingering befuddlement. "I think one of the most frustrating things was that daily everything changed," she says. "You couldn't depend on what you heard the day before." In late May, once the contractor had decided to begin work at the back of the room in the journals section (after several false starts elsewhere in the library), Shaw, her assistants,

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FRIENDS OF FONDREN LIBRARY



CALENDAR
1990 – 1991

Tuesday, September 11 THE ARCHITECTURE OF RICE UNIVERSITY AND ITS INFLUENCE by Stephen Fox, Fellow of the Anchorage Foundation of Texas. Farnsworth Pavilion, Ley Student Center, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, October 10 READING DRAMA WITH HELP FROM FILM by J. Dennis Huston, professor of English. Kyle Morrow Room, 3rd floor, Fondren Library, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, November 10 ANNUAL HOMECOMING BRUNCH with presentation of service awards, jointly sponsored by the Friends and Rice Engineering Alumni. Alice Pratt Brown Library, 3rd floor, Fondren Library, 9:00 a.m., Awards Ceremony, 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday, January 16 RECEPTION HONORING RICE AUTHORS (Faculty, Staff, Alumni, and Members of the Friends) of books published in 1990. Farnsworth Pavilion, Ley Student Center, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, February 10 SCHUBERTIAD A musical event in the style of the nineteenth-century featuring performances by students of the Shepherd School of Music. Farnsworth Pavilion, Ley Student Center, 3:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 9 FONDREN SATURDAY NIGHT XI Cocktails and dinner to benefit the Friends of Fondren Endowment Fund. Cohen House, 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, April 18 PREVIEW OF STUDENT ART EXHIBITION sponsored by the Friends and the Arts Committee of the Association of Alumni. Sewall Art Gallery, Rice University, 6:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 1 ANNUAL MEETING. Program by W. Brent Tarver, a member of the Friends of Fondren Library and a Rice graduate. Farnsworth Pavilion, Ley Student Center, 7:30 p.m.

An informal reception will be held with each program.
Charles D. Maynard, Jr., Program Chairman

Turn the Page, Dear CD-ROM Moves into Common Usage

The torrent of laserdisk literature — books, articles, essays, directories, conference reports, interviews, technical reports, bibliographies, product reviews, even the misinformation — demonstrates how successfully the technology has grabbed the attention of a considerable audience among information professionals. The number of meetings headlining the technology has risen dramatically, with the various products and prototypes, in both CD-ROM and twelve-inch videodisk format, exciting unusually intense interest.

Simply as a storage medium, the laserdisk possesses capabilities that are eye-opening: more than five years — roughly a quarter of a million references — of the Educational Resource Information Center database maintained by the University of Oregon fits on one CD-ROM disk; six million Library of Congress catalog records have been mounted on four disks; 10,000 public domain software files, the equivalent of five hundred floppy disks, can reside on a single CD-ROM disk; and a galaxy of bibliographic, financial, and biographical information has been assembled onto a four-disk set. Consider the full-text files, the collections of art reproductions, and the reports that the whole of classical literature is being captured digitally, and the technology's archival potential appears even more intriguing.

Still, the urge to regard over-hyped technology with skepticism is partially justified here. Many vendors provide searching software that is compatible with a narrow range of microcomputer hardware and CD-ROM drives. Issues of standards and compatibility were not completely resolved beforehand, a situation that adds to the anxiety of adopting a new technology. By committing to one or another producer today, are other products being unintentionally excluded from future consideration?

One source of irritation is the marketing approach some producers have taken. Although the production costs of most laserdisk products would prove difficult to cost-justify in a purely utilitarian sense, many companies insist on advancing that rationale as justification for surcharges or rental fees. Many librarians, content to make a case for laserdisks based on the potential for improved service, find such hype less helpful than a more educationally oriented marketing campaign might be. The Library Corporation sets a good example here, sending a floppy disk demo of BiblioFile with a booklet explaining the system so potential customers can test-drive it before making a commitment. Information Access Company (IAC) actually loans InfoTrac for serious evaluation.

Companies in this field are introducing new products at a fairly aggressive pace. Some aim at a precisely defined market while others have a broader appeal; some target upscale corporate clients, while others seek the home market. Although such focusing of the target audience often guarantees limited financial success, it does at least suggest a somewhat forgiving environment in which one miscalculation would not necessarily collapse the whole industry.

Due to a rapidly expanding menu of products, potential customers have choices to make. The competition in medical citations between MEDLINE and EMBASE continues in CD-ROM format. Several laserdisk sources of catalog information software for the major U.S. research libraries exist, including software for both the PC and the Apple Macintosh. Competing versions of the PC-SIG (PC-Special Interest Group) library of public domain and user-supported software files for the IBM PC and other microcomputers are available from several sources. Financial disclosure information published by

several Wall Street institutions can be purchased as a stand-alone subscription, or can be part of a larger corporate information package, such as the Datext Corporate Information Database. Those in the market for an encyclopedia, including the venerable Britannica, have their choice of microcomputer and type of laserdisk, and dictionary users can finally own the full Oxford English Dictionary on CD-ROMs.

The area of library applications is particularly well served, and the influx of new technology encourages librarians to rethink some of their approaches to cataloging and retrospective conversion, full-text and end-user searching, archival storage of collections on optical disk media, reference, acquisitions, and public-access catalogs. An assortment of general reference tools already exists: indexes, an encyclopedia, directories, a dictionary/thesaurus/telephone directory combination, and Books in Print, among others. Microsoft Bookshelf — a more general collection of business and educational references such as the Merriam-Webster dictionary, a thesaurus, several writing style books, a complete zip code listing, and various other common desktop reference books — is also available at a reasonable cost.

The primary medical indexes are available, although chiefly as auxiliaries to the full online or print sources, since neither COMPACT Cambridge/MEDLINE nor EMBASE on SilverPlatter offers coverage prior to 1984. Computerized Clinical Information Systems by Micromedex, however, is one of the most fully realized laserdisk products now available in an area where completeness is critical: drug and toxic substances treatment information. Cambridge is also active in the sciences, with CD-ROM versions of *Life Sciences*, *Aquatic Sciences*, and *Fisheries Abstracts*.

Not surprising, the market for business and financial information supports considerable laserdisk publishing activity. Disclosure and particularly Datext are important, not only because they have blanketed the field but also because both companies are pursuing work on laserdisk/online hybrid systems. More conventionally, there are two well-conceived twelve-inch videodisk products from IAC: InfoTrac, which provides indexing of business, trade, and financial publications, and a full-text *Wall Street Journal* database.

SilverPlatter has announced CD-ROM versions of standard indexing tools in psychology,

sociology, public affairs, and education. For humanists, there is the videodisk catalog of the National Gallery of Art, a CD-ROM sound-effects library, and a wide range of textual collections, including the *Thesaurus Linguae Graecae*, a compendium of classical Greek texts covering the full range of philosophy, natural science, and arts from the *Nicomachean Ethics* to the *Ars Poetica*.

CD-ROM has also been promoted as a format ideally suited for applications software. So far, the only product is the public domain software library, but its size and diversity — word processing, database management, spreadsheet analysis, financial and business applications, communications, statistics, languages, utilities, graphics, CAI, music, and games — are a convincing argument for further publishing. Microsoft's annual CD-ROM conference, its establishment of a CD-ROM publishing group, and its publication of *CD-ROM: The New Papyrus* on a CD-ROM disk (for demonstration purposes) and in printed format testify to the software developer's intention to enter the laserdisk field. Borland International, developer of Turbo Lightning, an access system for indexed databases, and The Finder, a stand-alone full-text retrieval system, is also advertising its interest in CD-ROM.

Already certain information centers may find a product (e.g., the Micromedex drug information database) that meets their specific needs very comprehensively, but in most settings the laserdisk version of a database will supplement some existing tool. There are considerable subject-area gaps and decisions to be made regarding updates and retrospective coverage. At the same time that those issues are being sorted out, however, laserdisk technology is making great leaps in new directions. ≡

It's not too early to circle

MARCH 9

on your 1991 calendar!

Plan now to join the
Friends of Fondren Library
at Cohen House for the annual
Fondren Saturday Night gala.

A LETTER TO THE FRIENDS

Continued from page 1

in 1990. Please let Betty Charles know if you or other members of the Friends are recently published authors.

The annual **Schubertiad** takes place on **Sunday, February 10**, at 3:00 p.m., and students of the Shepherd School of Music will, as in years past, perform a variety of nineteenth-century works. We encourage you to bring your children to this recital.

The **Eleventh Annual Fondren Saturday Night** will be held on **Saturday, March 9**. It will take the same form as last year's event, a seated dinner at Cohen House, which was very successful and well received.

The **Preview of the Student Art Exhibition**, on **Thursday, April 18**, will again be cosponsored with the Arts Committee of the Alumni Association. The progressive opening, which has proved very popular, will begin at 6:00 p.m. at the Rice Media Center and then move to the courtyard and gallery at Sewall Hall. Transportation by bus

will be provided.

W. Brent Tarver, a member of the Friends of Fondren Library and a Rice graduate, will present the final lecture at our annual meeting on **Wednesday, May 1**, at 7:30 p.m. Mr. Tarver works for Cyberonics, Inc., a recently formed bio-engineering company that makes an implantable nerve stimulator to reduce seizures in persons with epileptic symptoms. The new device is currently in the clinical stages of testing.

By the end of the past fiscal year, the Friends of Fondren Library Endowment Fund had reached a market value of \$468,041. The success of the gala in March, the sale of plates and watches, and other Friends' activities have allowed our fund to grow considerably since 1980, when it had a book value of \$11,000. We should be very pleased that our hard work and dedication are paying off for the library.

Very truly yours,
David S. Elder
President

FONDREN LIBRARY BUILDING HOURS FALL 1990

Regular Hours

Monday - Thursday	7:45 a.m. - 1:00 a.m.
Friday	7:45 a.m. - midnight
Saturday	10:00 a.m. - midnight
Sunday	1:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m.

Midterm Recess

Friday, Oct. 12	7:45 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 13	10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Sunday, Oct. 14	1:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Monday, Oct. 15	7:45 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday, Oct. 16	Regular hours resume

Thanksgiving Recess

Wednesday, Nov. 21	7:45 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Thursday, Nov. 22	CLOSED
Friday, Nov. 23	10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 24	Regular hours resume

Christmas and New Year's Holidays

Wednesday-Friday, Dec. 19-21	7:45 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Saturday-Tuesday, Dec. 22-25	CLOSED
Wednesday-Friday, Dec. 26-28	7:45 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Saturday-Tuesday, Dec. 29 - Jan. 1	CLOSED
Wednesday-Friday, Jan. 2-4	7:45 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 5	10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Sunday, Jan. 6	Regular hours resume

The above schedule is subject to change.

TOPPING OFF THE SUMMIT

Continued from page 7

led down each aisle of the stacks, and books were pulled at random from the shelves for inspection; elevator shafts and the spaces above ceiling tiles, of which the library has 100,000 square feet, were examined; all copy machines, including their coin boxes, were opened; and three locksmiths were engaged to cut off locks that, despite several warnings, had been left on lockers by unwary students and patrons.

The flags, of course, have disappeared, as have the artwork and the indoor plants — all whisked away the morning after. The translator booths were disassembled in a twinkling, while the trails of yellow and green tape that indicated direction to the foreign and finance delegations, respectively, remain stuck to the floor. The huge pots of cheerful white periwinkles in front of the library appear to be here for the long term. And beyond that, there remains the much slower work of library reconstruction. — *Cory Masiak*

EIGHT FLAGS OVER THE B.I.C.

Continued from page 8

and Physical Plant boxed hundreds of journals, disassembled book shelves, unloaded ten three-drawer file cabinets, and moved all the stuff out in under five hours. Thus began an almost nonstop frenzy of packing, moving, and unpacking that was to define their summer. In one two-day period, they packed 250 boxes of books that were eventually hauled to the stadium for temporary storage. The library's furniture and bookcases were scattered to different locations across campus. And Shaw's own office was the most peripatetic of all. "We were moved out of here [the first floor of Herring Hall]," she says, "upstairs to the second floor, then from there over to Brown, back from Brown up to the third floor, and finally we'll come back here."

For the moment, Shaw refrains from passing final judgment on the B.I.C.'s summit ordeal. "It just depends on how it all looks when it comes back," she says somewhat skeptically. She feels the biggest obstacle to a quick return to order may be reassembling the bookshelves, which were hastily dismantled and left unlabeled. On one point, however, Shaw is adamant. Before the furniture is put back in place, the carpet will be steam-cleaned. — *C.M.*

THE BEST LAID PLANS

Continued from page 8

schedule waited on the sniffing dogs," recalls Hemstreet with amusement. R.i.C.E. ended up receiving maybe two or three envelopes a day.

The biggest problem, however, involved the couriers. In spite of earlier assurances that messengers would be allowed to make deliveries, at the last moment their movement was severely restricted. Explains Hemstreet, "The couriers got past the Houston police, and they got past the campus police, but the third line of defense [the Secret Service] was the toughest and they couldn't get in." Instead, one of the R.i.C.E. staff would meet the courier off campus to pick up the package, which then had to undergo the sniffing-dog test as well as a metal detector test before being allowed in. "The major clients who didn't get their couriers through were disappointed," says Gourlay, perhaps in a bit of an understatement.

The experience was not a total loss, however. Without a great deal of business, the R.i.C.E. staff could alternately amuse itself by waving at the passing motorcades, which parked in the stadium lot, and by chatting with the detail of friendly Secret Service agents whose job it was to supply refreshments to the rest of the 845 agents on campus (possibly more of a life-saving measure under the circumstances than a mere thoughtful gesture). In fact, the Secret Service agents were so sympathetic to the plight of the R.i.C.E. staffers, they obligingly brought in soft drinks, ice, and doughnuts on a regular basis. Summitry of a kinder, gentler sort. — *C.M.*

ANGLING FOR AUTHORS

The Friends of Fondren Library would appreciate your assistance in identifying members of the Rice community — faculty, staff, alumni, and Friends of Fondren — who have had (or will have) books published in 1990. A reception in their honor is scheduled for Wednesday, January 16, 1991. If you know someone who has written a book, please contact Betty Charles in the Friends office at 285-5157 before December 1, 1990.

THE FRIENDS OF FONDREN LIBRARY



October 1, 1990

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Gina Walters

Ron Blake, Karen LaCroix, Andy Karsner, and Sam Carrington, Fondren Saturday Night, March 10, 1990.

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